

## **REPORT OF THE ROAD AGENT**

It doesn't seem possible that I have signed up for Road Agent 24 times. When I started 24 years ago, we had 15 miles of roads with just one subdivision in Fremont. Now, 24 years later, we have over 20 subdivisions with 50 miles of roads.

The rule of thumb is that a road lasts 20 years, some more, some less. Some of our subdivisions, like Hooke Road/Taylor Lane, Walker Lane, Poplin Acres, and Mast Tree Estates are all over 20 years old. Some subdivisions like Whittier Drive and Nathaniel Brown are under 20 years and are looking in need of some updates as well. So, needless to say, we need to start a plan to rebuild these roads and others.

The Town's Master Plan calls for the reconstruction of approximately 2.5 miles per year, such that all of the Town's 50 miles of road inventory, would be updated within a 20 year cycle. There is no paving scheduled for 2010 and in 2009 there was no paving within subdivisions, only a couple of patch areas.

With 50 miles of road, if we started in 2011 and resurfaced 2.5 miles of road per year, it would take 20 years to do the cycle and then we would start all over again. That is only true if no more roads are added to our inventory, and it is more than likely, that additional roads will be built.

We have been more than lucky to have a highway budget as low as it is. I'm afraid now that the time is coming fast that our luck is running out. The highway budget will have to double to maintain these roads the way they should be. We probably could start small by doing a mile the first year and gradually work our way to 2.5 miles by doing a little more each year. Maybe we could start in 2011 and maybe, just maybe, in a couple of years the economy will turn around and we will be all set.

There was no rebuilding of any significance done in 2009. We did install a new culvert on Karlin Road and we did a lot of general maintenance like cutting brush, cutting high limbs, and a lot of shoulder work.

I see where the Selectmen want to start a Highway Study Committee on buying tractors, trucks, etc, maybe even a building. I wish we could start a study committee to rebuild some roads instead.

There is not much else to say except that I want to thank all of you who have supported me for the past 24 years. We got a lot done, and have come a long way. Just for instance, about the time I started, we dug the sand out of the ground with rocks in it. We dumped it onto the sander and the bigger stones wouldn't go through the screens, so then we got up on top of the sander and kicked the rocks off so we could dump more in. Of course a lot of rocks got in and would go onto the road. We did not use salt then. There are many more stories like that.

So for me thinking back how I started out, and now we have screened sand mixed with salt. I think we are modern now.

This year we will be asking again for the voters to accept Risloves Way and Moose Meadow as two new Town roads. Both of these have been inspected by engineers and myself and have our approval to be accepted, having met all of the Town's standards.

Again thank you all for supporting me all these years. Thanks to all the truck drivers for their dedication, hard work, and cooperation.

Throughout the years, I have worked with all good Selectmen who supported the Highway Department and supported rebuilding roads. I was lucky. I wish the new Road Agent all the best.

Respectfully submitted,

Guerwood M Holmes  
Road Agent

*"We are a nation of many nationalities, many races, many religions – bound together by a single unity, the unity of freedom and quality. Whoever seeks to set one nationality against another, seeks to degrade all nationalities. Whoever seeks to set one race against another seeks to enslave all races. Whoever seeks to set one religion against another seeks to destroy all religion. I am fighting for a free America – for a country in which all men and woman have equal rights to liberty and justice. I am fighting, as I always have fought, for the right of the little man as well as the big man – for the weak as well as the strong, for those who are helpless as well as for those who can help themselves."*

~ Franklin D Roosevelt  
Campaign Speech